

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /060 W
----- 013421

P R 041557Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2241
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION NATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USLO SACLANT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3799

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, NO
SUBJ: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING AUGMENTATION

REFS: (A) STATE 183434, (B) USNATO 3300

1. NORWEGIANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED NATO INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAM BOH AS A VISIBLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING
ALLIES' TIES AND AS A DIRECT BENEFIT TO NORWAY'S DEFENSE. NOR-
WEGIANS RECOGNIZE THEY HAVE BENEFITED CONSIDERABLY FROM INFRA-
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STRUCTURE PROGRAM, AND THEY ARE HOPING IN PART TO FUND PLANNED

IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR NADGE GROUND RADAR SYSTEM WITH SUCH FUNDS.

2. WE EXPECT THEIR BASIC REACTION WILL BE POSITIVE TO ANY PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OR INCREASE ITS FUNDING.

3. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY WOULD NECESSARILY BE SO POSITIVE TOWARD A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN THEIR 87 MILLION ANNUAL NKR. (\$14 MILLION) TO THE COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM. AS DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN POINTED OUT AT RECENT DPC MEETING, MOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT PERCENT REAL INCREASES IN ANNUAL DEFENSE SPENDING, AND HAS STRONGLY COMPETING PRIORITIES IN THE NEW COAST GUARD WHICH WILL COME UNDER THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. F-16 AND GROUND RADAR INSTALLATION IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALSO HIGH ON THE MOD'S PRIORITY FUNDING LIST. SO COMPETING BUDGETARY PRESSURES WOULD LIKELY BE A MAIN NORWEGIAN CONSIDERATION ON QUESTION OF A FUNDING HIKE.

4. THUS WHILE WE CANNOT PREDICT GON RESPONSE TO INCREASING ITS OWN FUNDING WE SEE NO HARM IN APPROACHING NORWEGIANS ON THE ISSUE AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL A.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, POLICIES, MILITARY BASES, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO03799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-0923
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760888/aaaaczax.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 183434
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING AUGMENTATION
TAGS: MARR, NO, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006